

For Immediate Release

November 2, 2005

Families invited to Honor America's Veterans and the returning Marines of Lima Company at Veterans Day Ceremony and Parade on November 10th

(Columbus) The families of Central Ohio are being asked to bring their friends and their flags to downtown Columbus on November 10th to honor Ohio's veterans and officially welcome home the Marines of Lima Company.

"With the 2005 Veterans Parade, we honor the service of both those defending our nation today and all of the veterans of past conflicts who protected our way of life throughout American history," said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. "On November 10th, we invite every family in Central Ohio to join us, to salute those who served, those whose lives were lost and those who are preparing to serve in the future as members of our United States Armed Forces."

The annual Veterans Parade is one of only 20 recognized in the nation, and will feature Grand Marshall Ron Rosser, Korean War recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, and the Marines of Lima Company, USMC 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. The parade gives residents a chance to thank Central Ohio's veterans and active duty members of the U.S. Military, Guard and Reserves. The events are organized by the City of Columbus, Franklin County Veterans Services and MilVets. The theme for 2005's parade and ceremonies is **"Honoring All Who Served."**

Merle Pratt, Parade Co-chair, said "MILVETS is honored to recognize all Veterans by again coordinating the annual Columbus Veterans Day Parade. This year we recognize the 60th Anniversary of the end of WWII, the 55th Anniversary of the end of the Korean War, the 30th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, and welcome home our newest Veterans, especially, Lima Company."

In the parade, there will be a helicopter fly-by, a military band and eight local school bands performing along with dozens of floats, hundreds of marchers, and other special guests. These events are free and open to the public. The parade kicks off at noon, from Nationwide and High, and travels south along High Street to end at Town Street.

"I would hope that citizens of Columbus, and especially their children, attend the Veterans Day Parade to show proper respect for, and to honor, fellow citizen soldiers who have served, and continue to serve, America. The price of assemblage and the freedoms we enjoy today are visible when we see the veterans battle scars, and we can see in their eyes their determination, their dedication, and their patriotism for our great country," said Doug Lay, Executive Director of Franklin County Veterans Services.

In addition to the annual ceremony and parade, the City is also joining with veterans groups and Ohio KIA families to host **Ohio "Flags of Honor"** along Broad and Front Streets in Downtown. The flags will be posted in ground by families of soldiers who lost

their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. The flags will be placed with an active duty sentry on November 9th, and remain through Veterans Day on November 11th as a remembrance of the sacrifice made by those in uniform.

“Lima Company’s return to Ohio was the catalyst in bringing Ohio ‘Flags of Honor’ to this historic dedication and launch,” said organizer Andy Leavitt. “Ohio KIA families find this portable memorial as an opportunity for healing while honoring their sons throughout Ohio. Ohio can be proud of these brave men.”

Ohio Flags of Honor Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit, with a mission to serve Ohio veterans and families with varied needed assistance. Over the next year, Ohio “Flags of Honor” is touring the state with the assistance of the American Legion Department of Ohio. Ohio Flags of Honor Foundation is dedicating and launching the tour at the City Hall event. Ohio “Flags of Honor” consists of 103 flagpoles printed with the rank, name and branch of service of each Ohio KIA from Iraq and Afghanistan. Mounted on the flag poles is a 3x5’ USA flag and black ribbon. Along with this portable memorial are 250+ “tribute flags” with a yellow ribbon and the sponsoring Ohio veterans organization printed on the pole. For more information on the Flags of Honor, contact Andy Leavitt, 614-263-1776.

WHAT:

Veterans Day Ceremony and Parade

WHERE:

Ceremony at the City Hall’s south Portman Plaza
Parade on High Street starting at Nationwide Blvd.

WHEN:

Thursday, November 10, 2005

Special Music begins at 10:10 a.m.
Veterans Day Ceremony begins at 10:30 a.m.
Parade kicks off at Noon